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# NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF

ELIZABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL



THE INFLUENCE OF AN EXCESSIVE MEAT DIET ON GROWTH AND NUTRITION.—The *Medical Record*, quoting from the *Lancet*, says: "D. Chalmers Watson in 1905 drew attention to the remarkable increase that had taken place in the consumption of animal food in England during the past fifty years (see MEDICAL RECORD, July 22, 1905, page 152, for abstract). During the past year he has made observations on the influence of a meat diet on the growth and general nutrition, and the paper deals with the clinical results obtained by feeding rats on an exclusive flesh diet. A summary of his results shows that growth is retarded, sterility is induced if the diet is commenced in very early life, the power of lactation is diminished, a permanent weakening of the resisting power of the animal is induced by the use of an excessive meat diet in early life, the animals succumbing to disease at an unusually early age, and there is a high death rate in the offspring of animals fed on an excessive meat diet."

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SOME UNHEEDED PRINCIPLES INVOLVED IN THE DIETETIC MANAGEMENT OF INFANTS IN HOT WEATHER.—At the meeting of the American Medical Association in Boston, Dr. Godfrey R. Pisek of New York City presented the following conclusions: (1) In warm weather keep a light woolen garment over the abdomen to prevent sudden chilling of the skin and consequent heat retention by suppression of perspiration. (2) Bathe infants twice daily. (3) Give plenty of cool boiled water to drink, to replace that lost by evaporation. (4) Pasteurize the food to retard its decomposition. (5) If the weather is close or muggy, or the humidity is high, dilute the food with one-half boiled water. In very humid weather, with high temperature, stop milk altogether, and feed gruels until the humid condition is past. (6) On warm, humid nights do not give milk feedings, because the humidity is higher at night than in the daytime. (7) For diarrhea give calomel or castor oil to eliminate decomposing food. Stop all milk feedings temporarily. If the air is hot, but dry, milk feedings may be resumed quite rapidly. If the relative humidity is high, feed gruels to reduce heat production and also to

starve out putrefactive bacteria and cautiously get back to the milk feedings. (8) Provide a circulation of air, as stagnant air soon becomes saturated with water vapor and no more perspiration can evaporate and absorb heat.

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CAUSES OF COATED TONGUE.—The *Journal of the American Medical Association*, in an abstract of a paper in *Berliner Klinische Wochenschrift*, says: "Rollin presents evidence to prove that the microscopic findings in the fasting stomach are identical with those of the tongue. He has also demonstrated that in case of hyperacidity the blood is nourished more than in normal conditions, and in case of lacking acidity, it is nourished less. The over-nourished blood induces hyperemia, increased metabolism and consequent throwing off of the superficial epithelium. In such conditions the tongue throws off its epithelium and appears red and clean. In case of lacking acidity, the metabolism is depressed and the epithelium is not thrown off but remains as a coating. The coated tongue is thus the result of anemia, and the anemia he ascribes to the lacking acidity in the stomach."

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A MEANS OF PREVENTING DERMATITIS FROM X-RAYS.—The *New York Medical Journal* says: "At a recent meeting of the Société de Chirurgie of Paris, Bazy described an expedient which he had found effective in preventing burns of the skin during radiation. It was simply to filter the rays through a rather thick layer (4 to 5 centimetres) of absorbent cotton."

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USE OF HOT SOLUTION OF SODA IN THE DISINFECTION OF FLOORS.—*Gazetta Medica di Roma*, as quoted by the *Medical Record*, has the following: "Giuseppe Pecori calls our attention to the lack of efficiency of the solutions of corrosive sublimate in ordinary use for disinfection of walls and floors. He finds comparatively useless many disinfectants ordinarily used. In order to obtain a disinfectant that would be efficient for the disinfection of hospital floors, as well as the rooms used in infectious cases, the author has made experiments as to the value of solutions of soda used hot for the destruction of the tubercle bacillus and other common germs. He finds that solutions of soda of 2 per cent. used hot and kept in contact with the bacteria for from five to ten minutes are not to be relied upon to destroy the bacilli, but that if solutions of 5 and 10 per cent. be used hot and applied for five or ten minutes they are efficacious and destroy all the bacilli. He believes that such solutions have a very real value in the disinfection of walls and floors, and that at

the same time they are not at all injurious even to cement floors. Another advantage is that the solutions are exceedingly cheap. The commercial soda that is an oxyhydrate and contains 70-72 per cent. of sodium hydrate is the one that should be used."

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BEHRING'S TUBERCULOSIS REMEDY.—The *Medical Record* says: "True to his promise made to the International Congress on Tuberculosis in Paris last autumn, Behring announces that the new remedy is ready for delivery in small quantities to clinicians who are in position to make satisfactory tests. He is not ready to put the remedy on the market, as it has not yet been sufficiently tested, but hospital physicians will receive it in small amounts free of charge. The remedy, which is called tulase, may be given hypodermically or per os."

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TREATMENT OF CONSTIPATION.—The *Journal of the American Medical Association*, quoting from a German contemporary, says: "The principal features of Kohnstamm's successful treatment are the avoidance of meat and the ingestion of milk three times a day at least. He believes that worry has a constipating effect and that the focussing of the will power is liable also to have an inhibiting influence on the visceral functions."

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DISINFECTION WITH HOT WATER AND ALCOHOL IN OBSTETRICS.—*Muenchener Medizinische Wochenschrift*, as quoted in the *New York Medical Journal*, says: "Von Herff strongly advocates the use of hot water and alcohol for cleansing in obstetric cases on account of its certainty and comparative simplicity, as demonstrated at the lying in hospital at Basle. He also finds the same application an efficient protective in wounds."

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INFLUENCE OF THE DURATION OF AN OPERATION.—*Fortshritte der Medizin*, as quoted by the *New York Medical Journal*, says: "Kessler believes, as the result of analysis of twenty-eight abdominal hysterectomies, that long duration alone of an operation has not the significance that has been attributed to it. Only one of his cases was fatal, and death resulted from repeated gastric hæmorrhages and necrosis of the pancreas. The duration of his operations was from an hour and three quarters to two hours and three quarters. He does not believe that a two hour operation necessarily results in shock. The probable disadvantages of long operations may be obviated by observing the following requirements:

1. Continued asepsis to the utmost limit.
2. Avoidance of hæmorrhage so far as possible.
3. Avoidance of wet applications during the operation.
4. Careful hæmostasis.
5. Use of dry dressings after the operation.
6. Ether narcosis."

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RESUSCITATION OF THE DROWNED.—The *Medical Record* says: "The superintendent of the Third District of the Life Saving Service has reported a remarkable case of resuscitation after a prolonged immersion under water. The case is that of a man who was thrown into the water off the coast of Rhode Island on July 4 by the capsizing of a boat, and, according to the official report, remained under water for twenty-three minutes. Artificial respiration was kept up for an hour and forty-eight minutes before the first signs of returning consciousness were noted, and the patient did not recover complete consciousness until the following day."

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HOW THE ARABS PREPARE A DOSE OF CASTOR OIL.—The *New York Medical Journal* has the following: "The *Journal de médecine de Paris* states that the Arabs when they wish to take castor oil, drop from fifteen to twenty grammes of oil into a glass of milk. This is placed upon a stove and heated, while being stirred with a spoon. In a few minutes a perfect emulsion is formed, and to this a generous quantity of the syrup of orange flowers is added. Administered in this manner the oil is more active, fifteen to twenty grammes being usually sufficient for an adult."



EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF A BOSTON SURGEON.—September 15, 18.—Captain Cooke operated on for extirpation of half the lower jaw; well, and has scarcely a scar.

Gave one hundred and fifty drops tinct. opii, in addition to ten grains of opium, given an hour before the operation; did not make him sleepy.

October 22, 18.—Died, Dr. ———, a good man, with a bad temper.

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THE five-year-old son of a missionary was present at a prayer-meeting where a number of older people related their experiences of long years of christian life. At length the boy arose and said, with deliberation: "Just sixty years ago to-night, in this place, I gave my heart to God!"—*Deaconess Advocate*.